

Farmers' Department.

SMALL VS. LARGE ANIMALS.—Mr. C. M. Bennett, of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., writes to the *Stock Journal*: "Of late years, since breeders began to cultivate with more precision, small or moderate-sized animals have generally been preferred for the following reasons: Small sized animals are more easily kept, thrive on shorter herbage, they collect food where a larger animal could hardly exist, and hence are more profitable. The meat is finer grained, produces richer gravy, has often a superior flavor, and is commonly more nicely marbled, or veined with fat, especially when they have been fed for two years. Large animals are not so well calculated for general consumption as the medium or moderate-sized, particularly in hot weather; large animals possess pastures more than small ones, they are not so active, require more rest, collect their food with more labor, and will only consume the more nice and delicate sort of plants. Small cows of the true dairy breeds give more milk proportionally than larger ones. Small cattle may be fattened solely on grass of even moderate quality; whereas the large require the richest pastures, or to be stall-fed, the expense of which exhausts the profit of the farmer. It is much easier to procure well-shaped and kindly feeding stock of a small size than of a large one. Small sized cattle may be kept by many persons who cannot afford either to purchase or to maintain large ones, and by whom the loss, if any accident should happen to them, would be more easily borne. The small sized sell better; for a butcher, from a conviction that in proportion to their respective dimensions, there is a greater superfluity of valuable parts in a small than a large animal, will give more money for two oxen of one hundred and fifty pounds per quarter, than for one of three hundred pounds."

GREEN FOOD FOR STOCK.—Those who from having long been confined to a diet of salt junk and potatoes, sit down for the first time in the season to enjoy early grown greens, lettuce, and green peas, may understand something of the longing which cattle and other stock feel for the return of grass feed in spring. It is, however, unwise to indulge them in a range of pasture until the growth is well established. Pasture may be greatly injured by too early cropping, and by trampling while the ground is soft. No hoof should enter a meadow or grain field in the spring time. Beets and carrots will now come to an excellent market if they are on hand. It is well, where only a small quantity are raised, to keep them over for spring feeding. If none have heretofore been cultivated, the desire for them now, should lead to preparation of ground for a crop the present season. Plow deep, sub-soil if needed, manure thoroughly, and sow in drills 1-2 to 2 feet apart, according to the crop, the latter part of this or the first of next month, except for turnips, which are better left later.—*American Agriculturist*.

CURBANT BUSHES.—Any one can raise a curbant bush, but the thing is to raise a fine bush. Take young sprouts, last year's growth and remove the eyes from the lower portion of the shoot for about nine inches, which will prevent suckers being thrown up from the roots. Plant in the spring or fall, in rich ground as the roots of the curbant do not extend themselves far in the search of food. They should be yearly supplied with rotten manure, dug in about the roots. The culture of this fruit is often neglected in the best gardens. Plant eight feet apart; treat well, and for fifteen years your table may be supplied with this cheap luxury, costing you little or nothing. Every one that owns a few feet of land, as well as the farmer who owns his hundred acres, should plant out curbant bushes. If you think so it takes but a few minutes, and with a little care taken of them, you will soon be amply paid for your trouble. Put not off till to-morrow that which should be done to-day. I have known farmers say, when urged to make some improvement, "I haven't time this spring to set out these bushes; my work is too pressing. I will have leisure in the fall, then I will attend to it." This is the way it goes, putting off the work that should be attended to immediately until some future time. I say to one and all, improve the present.

WHEN TO PLANT CORN.—Field corn planted early in May has usually to be replanted once or twice. This makes unnecessary labor, for that planted some weeks later usually ripens at nearly the same time. If the seed does not rot in the ground, the poor little yellow blades are born first, and their shriveled ends pine for the hot sun. Those plants that survive the chills and rains of May, are not so healthy, or well prepared to take advantage of the warm weather when it comes, so that planted in the proper season, which in the latitude of the north is after the middle of May in almost all seasons; and often it is not best to plant before the first of June. No fault is more surely repented of than too early planting of corn. If well soaked, and placed in a warm soil, corn is very soon above ground, and a few warm days find it beyond fear of harm from cut-worms, white grub, wire worms or crabs—whereas that planted early in the month must be batted with all these for several weeks, if it survives the dampness and the frosts.—*Agriculturist*.

GRAFTING.—A correspondent says that the best way to graft old trees is to lead the branches all back in the spring, cover the stumps with waxed cloth and manure the tree. It will throw out a great number of new shoots which are allowed to grow the first year. The next season select

the strongest of these, near the ends of the stump, for inserting the grafts, making the choice with a view to the future form of the tree, put one graft in each of these and remove all the rest. It is claimed that this treatment causes a renewed growth of root and that such trees do much better than when the graft is put directly into the old stump. For poorly growing and old trees this may do.—*American Agriculturist*.

How to Preserve Your Furs.—Furs, says a writer in one of the New York papers, who seems to be thoroughly familiar with the subject, should never be put away for the summer and forgotten, as they so frequently are; and, next, to being shut up from the air, their greatest enemy is damp. If from the wearer being exposed to rain, they become wet, they should always be dried at a moderate distance from the fire immediately, and in warm weather, when not required for wear, they should never be shut in a box or drawer for more than a few days at a time, and every few weeks they should be shaken and beaten.

The more delicate skins require somewhat more delicate treatment. The best plan is, probably, not to pack furs away, but to let them lie in a drawer or wardrobe that is constantly being opened, so that they may meet the eye frequently, and being thus often in sight, it is easy at convenient opportunities, to have them taken out and beaten; or, at any rate, shaken and tossed and thoroughly exposed to the air. It is common to hear it remarked that the moth gets into furs, as if the insect actually migrated from one locality to another; the probability is, however, that furs and woollen animal substances, endowed with a vital principle, which develops itself into the living organisms through the decay of its material shape. Cleanliness and airing are therefore absolutely essential.

PICTURES.—A room with pictures, and a room without pictures, differ as much as a room with windows and a room without windows. Nothing is more melancholy, particularly to a person who has to pass much time in his room, than bleak walls and nothing on them, for pictures are loopholes of escape for the soul, leading to other scenes and spheres. It is such an inexpressible relief to a person engaged in writing, or even reading, on looking up, not to have his line of vision chopped off by an odious white wall, but to find his soul escaping, as it were, through the frame of an exquisite picture, to other beautiful, and perhaps, heavenly scenes, when a fancy for a moment may reveal, refreshed and delighted. Thus, pictures are consoling of loneliness; they are a relief to the jaded mind; they are windows to the imprisoned thought; they are books, they are histories and sermons, which we can read without the trouble of turning over the leaves.

St. Albans.—Our neighbor at the North is a growing and active town. We were struck, on a recent visit there, with the marks of progress and improvement. The Railroad shops recently completed, have few rivals in their way in the substantial good taste of the exterior; and the extent and completeness of the interior arrangement. The pay roll of hands employed, including fifty or sixty engineers, is about four hundred and fifty. Of course the addition of such a number of mechanics to the population gives a powerful impulse to the general trade and prosperity of the place. The road is now building ten locomotives for its own use, the calls of Government and business generally crowding the great locomotive factories till it has become impossible to buy the motive power demanded by the rapidly increasing business of the Road. One or two of the machines already built under the supervision of Mr. Perkins, the master mechanic of the Road, cannot be beat for beauty and excellence, and cost far less to build than to buy. Such a locomotive as a few years ago cost \$10,000 cannot now be bought for less than \$18,000 to \$19,000. Some of the passenger cars built in these shops, and especially the new "Ladies Cars," of which one has been completed and others are building, are models of elegance and comfort.

But the railroad grounds and buildings do not monopolize all the improvements. The common, or park, is being graded to a proper surface. The excavations for the foundations of a new hotel, to cost some \$40,000, are in progress. The Catholic church, which has been for years in an unfinished state, has of late gained a spire, and is in process of completion without and within. Private dwellings are multiplying, and the appearance of things generally betokens increasing thrift and prosperity.—*Free Press*.

A FASHIONABLE PARLOR.—How many people do we call on from year to year, and know no more of their feelings, habits, tastes, family ideas and ways, than if they had lived in Kamtschatka. And why? Because the room which they call a front parlor is made expressly so that you never shall know. They sit in a back room, work, talk, read, perhaps. After the servant has let you in and opened a crack of the shutters, and while you sit waiting for them to change their dress and come in, you speculate as to what they may be doing. From some distant region the laugh of a child, the song of a canary-bird reaches you, and then a door claps hastily to. Do they love plants? Do they write letters, sew, embroider, crochet? Do they ever romp and frolic? What books do they read? Do they sketch or paint? Of all these possibilities a mute and muffled room says nothing. A sofa and six chairs, two ottomans fresh from the upholsterer's, a Brussels carpet, a center-table with four gilded bowls of beauty on it, a mantle-clock from Paris, and two bronze vases, all these tell

you in frigid tones, "this is the best room," only that and nothing more, and soon she trips in her best clothes, and apologizes for her being so waiting, asks how your mother is, and you remark that it is a pleasant day—and thus the acquaintance progresses from year to year. One hour in the little back-room, where the plants and canary-bird and children are, might have made you fast friends for life; but as it is, you are no more for them than for the gilt clock on the mantle.—*Mrs. Stone*.

PUMP-HANDLE MILK.—A new and valuable law is just going into effect in Massachusetts in regard to the sale and inspection of milk, designed to punish and prevent cheating both in quality and quantity. All dealers must have their measures and cans annually sealed by some measure by the seal of weights and measures, and the same must be marked by the dealer with the quantity they hold. Dealers who sell from measures or cans not sealed and marked or fail to record themselves with the inspectors, are subject to a fine of \$20 for the first offense and \$50 for each subsequent one. And selling milk adulterated, or reduced by water is punishable by \$20 fine for the first offense, \$50 for the second, and imprisonment from 30 to 90 days for each subsequent offense.

A Havana letter of the 26th ult., gives a rumor that 20,000 Hattians, instigated by American agents and armed by American money, had invaded the Spanish possessions of St. Domingo, so as to help along the rebellion.

Since the West Point military academy was founded in 1802, 4626 cadets have been admitted, 2020 of whom have graduated.

If we do our duty, the spring campaign will be to the rebel Confederacy its fall campaign.

ST. ALBANS MUSIC STORE.—ST. ALBANS, VT. Where every variety of Musical Instruments can be found. Pianos from five different manufacturers, viz: Steinway's, Chickering & Son, the United Piano Factory; J. P. Hale & Co., Woodward & Lothrop.

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NEW FIRM.—The subscribers having purchased the Shop and Stock of Henry M. Shove, and formed a co-partnership under the name and style of

S. S. & J. A. BEDARD, would respectfully notify the people of Franklin County and vicinity, that they have fitted up in a neat and convenient manner their

HARNESS SHOP on Main Street, St. Albans, adjoining the Drug Store of L. L. Dutcher and Son, where they will keep on hand and manufacture to order, all kinds of

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Intending to employ experienced workmen only, and to sell their Goods at a fair price, they hope to merit and receive a goodly share of public patronage.

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NOTICE.—All those indebted to J. A. Bedard are requested to call and settle their accounts without delay.

J. A. BEDARD, St. Albans, March 17, 1864. 1-3w

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MICHAEL DISCOLL, St. Albans, March 18, 1864. 1-17

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MARVIN, St. Albans, March 28, 1864. 2-17

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